

and physical requirements of these ambitious energy plans are within the country's reach.

That doesn't mean they'll be cheap. After all, fighting World War II was incredibly expensive—the modern economic equivalent would be passing a \$700 billion stimulus package every eight weeks for the next three years. Furthermore, defeating the fascist powers was of utmost importance as those powers represented a material and immediate threat to every living person in the free world. Although we strongly believe that the world's energy infrastructure must change, we don't believe that either climate change or energy-driven trade imbalances are remotely as scary today as Hitler was in 1941; and thus, while we could rebuild the energy system as we rebuilt industry for the war effort, the impetus to do so is far smaller today than in was in the 1940s.

Rather than waging war, rebuilding our energy infrastructure according to these plans would be more like keeping the peace: Consider that were the government doing all of this spending, it would require an annual budget of about one-third the average peacetime budget of the Defense Department. When we recall that Defense employs more than 3 million people, includes a massive research, design, and procurement system, and maintains a system of facilities worldwide, we get a sense of the magnitude of these proposed energy plans.

Another important fact to consider is that neither the Gore plan nor the Google plan assumes that the government will pay for everything transforming the U.S. power sector entails. Rather, both groups believe—admirably, in our opinion—in the endless capabilities of the American entrepreneur. In other words, these plans are betting that free enterprise will spring into action with the necessary capital. (With one proviso: Said entrepreneurs are given the proper policy incentives such as a stiff price on carbon emissions.) While we also believe in the power of individual initiative coupled with enlightened policy, we are cognizant of the fact that both World War II and the Interstate Highway System were entirely funded by U.S. taxpayers. So taking on an industrial transformation similar in scope to either the war effort or the highway system with mostly private capital is—to put it modestly—a challenging proposition.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on October 26, 2009, I was unavoidably unable to cast my votes for rollcall 814 and rollcall 815. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### RECOGNIZING MR. RICHARD REUSS

##### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Richard Reuss of Glenview, Illinois, who recently retired after thirty years as an Advisor to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Mr. Reuss and I share a passion for

the Great Lakes and I thank him for his tireless work over the past three decades to protect and improve the fishery.

Mr. Reuss represented the public-at-large on the Commission's Committee of Advisors since he was first nominated to serve in 1980 by Governor James Thompson. The Committee is charged with advising the Commission about all matters relating to fish stocks shared by Canada and the United States, as well as providing an avenue for citizens to be heard on issues that matter to them. Mr. Reuss's responsibility was to consider ways in which all citizens could benefit from protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and then to provide the best advice possible to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission about how the Commission could better achieve its objectives.

As an Advisor, Mr. Reuss was a consistent and strong advocate for the Great Lakes. He stayed in regular contact with boaters, fishers, and elected officials, was constantly up to date on Great Lakes issues, and worked tirelessly to keep the Commission and others informed. For years, he volunteered his time to help educate fishers and citizens about the Great Lakes, the sea lamprey problem, and ways in which we could all work together to improve the resource. He was particularly outspoken about the need for effective invasive species measures, whether they be measures to control sea lampreys, to prevent Asian carp, or to address the ballast water vector. In 2004, the commission honored Mr. Reuss with the C.D. "Buzz" Besadny Award for Fostering Great Lakes Partnerships, the Commission's highest recognition.

For the first time in its 50-year history, the Commission has created the position of Advisor Emeritus and has asked Mr. Reuss to serve in that capacity. So, while Mr. Reuss is formally retiring from the Committee of Advisors, the Commission and the Great Lakes community will not lose his invaluable service.

I am proud to honor Mr. Richard Reuss as he retires from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's Committee of Advisors and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his remarkable service to the Great Lakes.

#### HEALTH CARE

##### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, there are still at least three very different versions of a massive health care package being discussed in the House of Representatives. There is no firm agreement on whether we will have a "public option" or what form it might take. And yet we are being told that this plan MUST be passed before Thanksgiving.

Rushing this package to a vote is a huge mistake. It is dangerous to the futures of all of our constituents. This year our federal deficit has surpassed \$1.4 trillion. And yet, the Democrat majority wants to expand government in this healthcare bill, adding hundreds of billions more to our deficit.

The work on this bill is being done out of sight of every member except the select few chosen by the majority leadership. Americans deserve transparency in this process, not Chicago-style strong arm tactics.

That is why I have introduced a resolution calling for the final language, of the healthcare package to be available for 30 days before it comes to the floor for a vote.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY RESERVE CAPTAIN BENJAMIN A. SKLAVER

##### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and mourn together with his family the death of an American hero, CPT Benjamin A. Sklaver of Hamden, Connecticut.

A captain the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division serving his second tour of duty, Benjamin Sklaver was killed in an ambush on Friday, October 2, while on patrol in Afghanistan. Struck down at the age of 32, he leaves behind a legacy of humanitarian works and honorable deeds that would do any man or woman proud.

Captain Sklaver was, as his friend Jake Herrie deemed him, "a combatant of peace," and his career of good works took him from Malawi to Djibouti and from Uganda to Central Asia. He served as a crisis relief specialist, helping people all around the world get back on their feet after hard times. Compelled to national service by his patriotism and to humanitarian action by his Jewish faith, Sklaver was at once a proud soldier and a humble man of peace. Along with his firearm and ammunition, he carried schoolbooks and drinking water. He constructed not only forts and bunkers, but roads, schools, and dormitories. He brought not war and destruction in his wake, but infrastructure and peace.

Before serving in Afghanistan as an army reservist, Sklaver—a graduate of Tufts University as well as its Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy—had worked for FEMA in New York and the CDC as an international emergency and refugee health analyst. And he was the co-founder of and director of ClearWater Initiative, an organization which aspired to provide clean drinking water to refugees displaced by an international emergency.

In the past two years, Sklaver's leadership at ClearWater had managed to provide over 6,500 people in Uganda with clean drinking wells. To the thousands of lives he changed in Uganda, Sklaver was known as "Moses Ben." But to his grieving family—his parents, Gary and Laura; his siblings, Anna and Samuel; his fiancée, Beth; her son, Danny; and her parents, Barbara and Jimmy Segaloff—he was simply Ben, a warm, kind, and generous young man with so much life ahead of him, taken from us all too early.

Connecticut mourns, and America mourns, this family's loss.

#### REMEMBERING HORACE D'ANGELO, JR.

##### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life and work of Horace